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CRIME IN MONTANA

1984
ANNUAL REPORT

Compiled by the
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA CENTER
OF THE MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL

Dr. Gordon Browder, Chairman

July 1985

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criminal
justice
data
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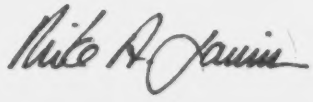
Data used in preparation of this publication were compiled at the Criminal Justice Data Center and produced by the Research and Planning Bureau of the Montana Board of Crime Control.

FOREWORD

Crime in Montana is an annual report prepared by the Criminal Justice Data Center of the Montana Board of Crime Control. It presents an overview of the nature and extent of crime in our state and includes a section on juvenile offenders and the Montana Youth Courts.

Crime trends are easy to measure, but difficult to analyze. Montana's crime rate peaked in 1980 at 4,616 index crimes per 100,000 population and since that time has continually declined to 4,246 in 1984. Whether this decline will continue or not is dependent on the social conditions that stimulate or inhibit criminal activity.



Mike A. Lavin
Administrator
MBCC

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SECTION ONE

M.U.C.R. REPORTING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the most complete and accurate information currently available about crime in the State of Montana. It contains an extensive collection of facts and detailed analyses of the prevalence of different types of crime, crime trends, and offenses known and arrests made by law enforcement. It is a summary of the nature, extent, and location of crime in the state.

"Crime in Montana" addresses the informational needs of law enforcement administrators, planners, legislators, and local government officials. It also affords citizens an opportunity to assess the state's crime situation.

HISTORY

The Board of Crime Control has been collecting data on criminal activity, arrests and offenses since early in the 1970's. Each year the data collection effort has improved to the point that accuracy of data is at the 95% level. The collection process started with a simple reporting system by individual police agencies in various parts of the state on a trial basis, which resulted in limited data giving only a vague picture of the nature of crime in Montana.

Working in conjunction with federal data collection agencies and other state agencies a "real" process started to emerge. The beginning saw a handful of police agencies involved, whereas, now there are a total of over 100 reporting agencies.

The M.U.C.R. system evolved from and continues to comply with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (F.B.I.) national Uniform Crime Reporting (U.C.R.) program. The national U.C.R. program came into existence in 1930 as a result of the need for a nationwide and uniform compilation of law enforcement statistics. The Committee of Uniform Crime Records of the International Association of Chiefs of Police developed the U.C.R. program, and Congress passed legislation on June 11, 1930 authorizing the FBI to act as the clearinghouse for crime information. In the late 1960's, with the availability of funds from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, individual states began assuming responsibility for direct collection of the U.C.R. data. The number of law enforcement agencies participating in the U.C.R. and related programs grew from 400 in 1930 to over 15,000 by 1981.

Montana became involved in the National U.C.R. reporting program in September, 1978, when the F.B.I. transferred data collection responsibility from its U.C.R. reporting division to the Montana Board of Crime Control's Criminal Justice Data Center. This transfer has enhanced crime data collection by giving the state more control over crime reporting, closer contact with law enforcement agencies, and more detailed information about crime.

TODAY'S PROCESS

General Overview

The criminal data contained in this report is initiated by the police departments, sheriff offices and other criminal justice agencies throughout the entire state. Criminal justice agencies that represent 94.9% of the population base are reporting criminal activity in their area. This means 103 law enforcement agencies are diligently filling out reports and sending them to the central collection point, the Montana Board of Crime Control's Criminal Justice Data Center. The effort put forth by these agencies is most commendable.

M.U.C.R.

The M.U.C.R., affectionately pronounced "MUCK-ER", or just by the initials "M-U-C-R", is comprised of two distinct data base systems. The "Offense and Activity" system summarizes the types of crimes being committed, unfounded and actual offenses, property stolen and/or recovered by type and values, time and location of offenses, the status of each case, and the number of law enforcement officers killed or assaulted. The "Custody" system records the types of arrests made, and the sex, race, and age of the person arrested.

The transfer of responsibility for data collection from the F.B.I. to the M.U.C.R. system has encouraged local law enforcement participation because the M.U.C.R. system provides contributors with both monthly and annual summaries of data for the "Offense and Activity" and "Custody" information systems. Data is furnished voluntarily by county law enforcement agencies, local police departments, and government agencies. Law enforcement agencies representing almost 95 percent of the Montana population provided data in 1984.

In addition to the monthly reports to contributors, other reports and publications are compiled from M.U.C.R. system data. These include the annual "Crime in Montana" publication and a variety of special reports requested by private and public groups. The M.U.C.R. system data is also sent to the F.B.I. for processing with other states' Uniform Crime Reporting data. This information is published in the annual F.B.I. report "Crime in the United States".

OBJECTIVES

The fundamental objectives of the Montana Uniform Crime Reporting Program are:

(1) To inform the Governor, Attorney General, Legislature, other governmental officials and the public as to the nature of the crime problem in Montana.

(2) To provide law enforcement administrators with criminal statistics for administrative and operational use.

(3) To determine who commits crimes by age, sex, and race in order to find the proper focus for crime prevention and enforcement.

(4) To provide base data and statistics to help measure the workload of the criminal justice system.

(5) To provide base data and statistics for research to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and performance of criminal justice agencies.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are included to assist the reader in fully understanding the information provided in this publication:

Offenses Reported or Known by Police—These are the criminal acts that were reported to law enforcement as having occurred during the reporting period.

Unfounded or Baseless Offenses—These are the offenses which are determined to be unfounded, false, or baseless as the result of subsequent information, action, or investigation.

Actual Offenses—These are the verified offenses which occurred. The number of actual offenses is the difference between the "Offenses Reported or Known" and the "Unfounded or Baseless Offenses".

Cleared by Arrest—For M.U.C.R. purposes, an offense can be cleared by arrest or by exceptional means. An offense is cleared by arrest when the offender is identified, there is enough evidence to charge him, and he is actually taken into custody. The arrest of one person may clear several offenses and the arrest of several persons may clear one offense. When some element beyond law enforcement control precludes formal charges against the offender, such as the victim's refusal to prosecute or the death of the offender, an offense can be cleared by exceptional means. No distinction is made between cleared by arrest and cleared by exceptional means in this publication.

Crime Index—The crimes of willful homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft were selected for use as an index on the basis of their serious nature, their frequency of occurrence and the reliability of reporting from citizens to law enforcement agencies. The crime index is the total of these offenses that come to the attention of law enforcement agencies.

Crime Rate—The crime rate indicates the number of Index Crimes per unit of population, generally per 100,000 population. It should be noted that the rate only takes into consideration the numerical factor of population and does not incorporate any of the other elements which contribute to the amount of crime in a given community.

The crime rate is obtained by dividing the total number of Index Crimes by the population or estimated population and multiplying the answer by 100,000:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Index Crimes}}{\text{Population of Law Enforcement Jurisdiction}} \times 100{,}000 = \text{Crime Rate}$$

The population data used in this report are provided by the State Census and Economic Information Center and the F.B.I. The figures are based on the latest population projections available.

Updated Data—Any data published here concerning figures for prior years supersede those in previous reports.

Percent Rounding—Percentages shown in this publication may not add to 100 due to rounding.

M.U.C.R. CRIME CLASSIFICATIONS

Reporting uniformity between law enforcement agencies depends upon the proper classification of offenses by the agencies. The M.U.C.R. system follows the basic guidelines for classifying offenses as formulated by the Uniform Crime Reporting Section of the F.B.I. It must be emphasized that the following classifications are not meant to be legal definitions of offenses. The classifications may differ considerably in some cases from the legal definitions as they are written in the Montana Code Annotated. The purpose of the F.B.I. classifications is to establish a uniform statewide and national system for classifying similar offenses even though legal definitions may vary from state to state.

THE SEVEN MAJOR CRIMES

Seven crimes are recognized as being the most serious crimes in our society and the most likely to be reported to law enforcement. These are called the Seven Major Crimes, or the Part 1 Offenses. The M.U.C.R. system divides these crimes into "Crimes Against Persons" and "Crimes Against Property":

Part I Offenses—The Seven Major Crimes

Crimes Against Persons .....

Homicide—The willful killing of one human being by another.

Rape—The carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will and all attempts to commit forcible rape.

Robbery—The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

Aggravated Assault—An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

Crimes Against Property .....

Burglary—The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft.

Larceny/Theft—The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another.

Motor Vehicle Theft—The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

Many Part 2 Offenses are reported in *"Crime in Montana"*. They encompass other crimes which, although serious, are not part of the Seven Major Crimes. These Part 2 Offenses are listed below:

Part II Offenses

Negligent Manslaughter
Other Assaults
Arson
Forgery and Counterfeiting
Fraud
Embezzlement
Stolen Property—Buying, Receiving, Possessing
Vandalism
Weapons—Carrying, Possessing, Etc.
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice
Sex Offenses
Narcotic Drug Laws
Gambling
Offenses Against the Family and Children

CRIME FACTORS

The amount and type of crime reported in *"Crime in Montana"* is based upon the number of reported offenses and does not measure those offenses unknown to the law enforcement community. A considerable volume of crime is not reported to law enforcement agencies. Many crimes are unreported because victims are unaware they have been victimized or have themselves been participants in illegal activity. Unidentified crimes can include, but are not limited to, buying stolen property, fraud, embezzlement, and shoplifting. Illegal activity requiring victim participation can include prostitution and narcotics activity. Other reasons crimes are unreported are that victims believe there is very little that can be done to catch the perpetrator, they fear the publicity of a police investigation, or the crime was too personal or private to report.

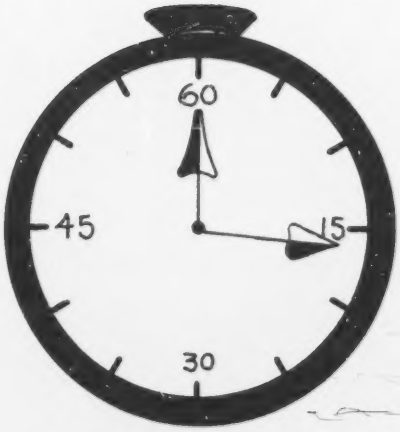
The following factors can also influence the type and volume of criminal activity in the state:

Density and size of community;
Demographic characteristics of the population;
Economic status of the population;
Influence on population stability by seasonal workers, tourism, etc.;
Educational, recreational, and religious characteristics of the population;
Effective strength of local law enforcement agencies;
Policies of prosecuting officials and the courts; and,
Public attitudes toward laws and law enforcement.

SECTION TWO

CRIME IN MONTANA

1984
MONTANA CRIME CLOCK



one
INDEX CRIME
every
15 MINUTES 1 second

one
VIOLENT CRIME
every
4 HOURS 53 minutes

one
MURDER
every
10 DAYS 3 hours

one
RAPE
every
2 DAYS 8 hours

one
ROBBERY
every
1 DAY 17 hours

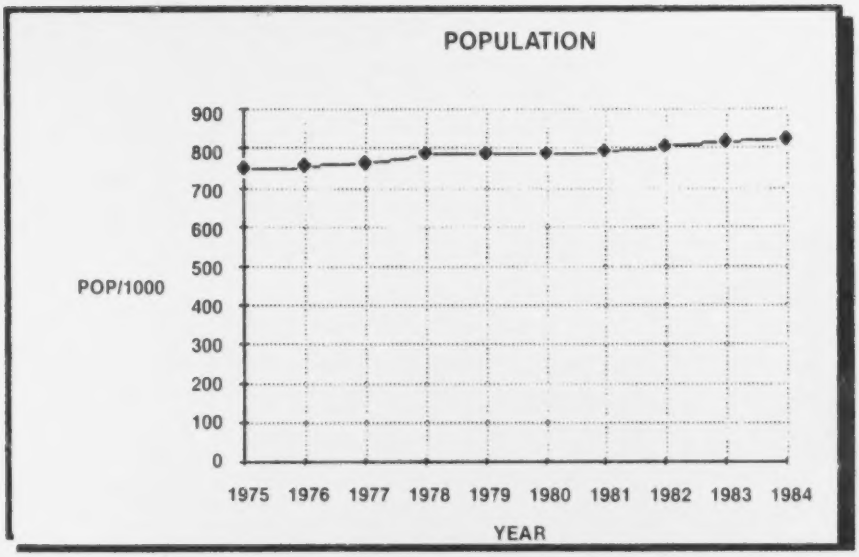
one
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
every
6 HOURS 17 minutes

one
PROPERTY CRIME
every
15 MINUTES 50 seconds

one
BURGLARY
every
1 HOUR 19 minutes

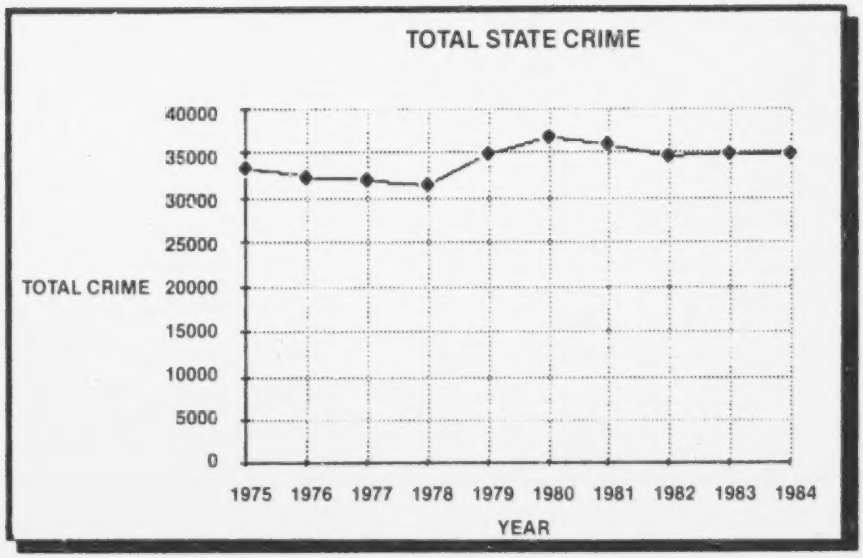
one
LARCENY/THEFT
every
21 MINUTES 24 seconds

one
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
every
4 HOURS 33 minutes



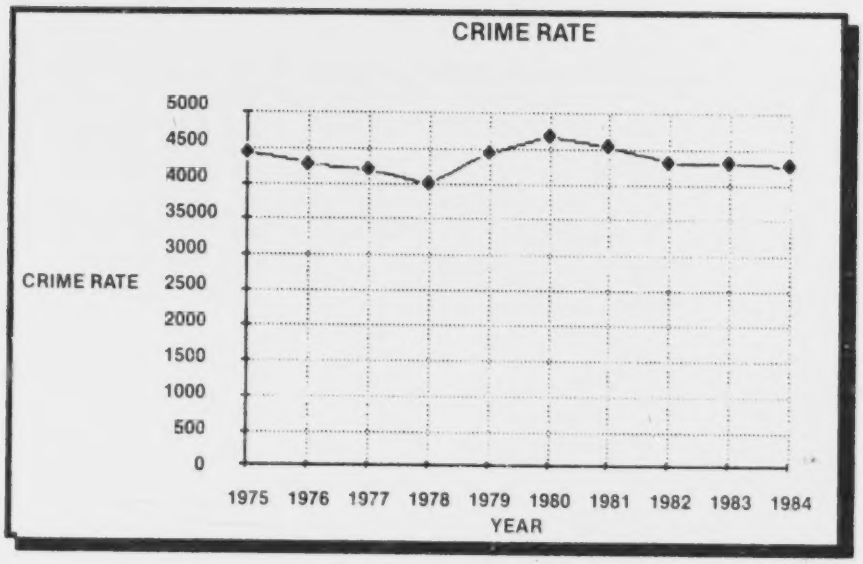
Population is estimated in most years based on F.B.I. and state projections. The chart shows a steady growth over the ten (10) years shown, which is a 10.2 percent increase in population from 1975 to 1984. The population of 1975 was set at 748,000 and that increased to 824,000 in 1984.

Population comparisons are used throughout the text to show crime rate, number of crimes per 100,000 population, and other analyses of crime in Montana.



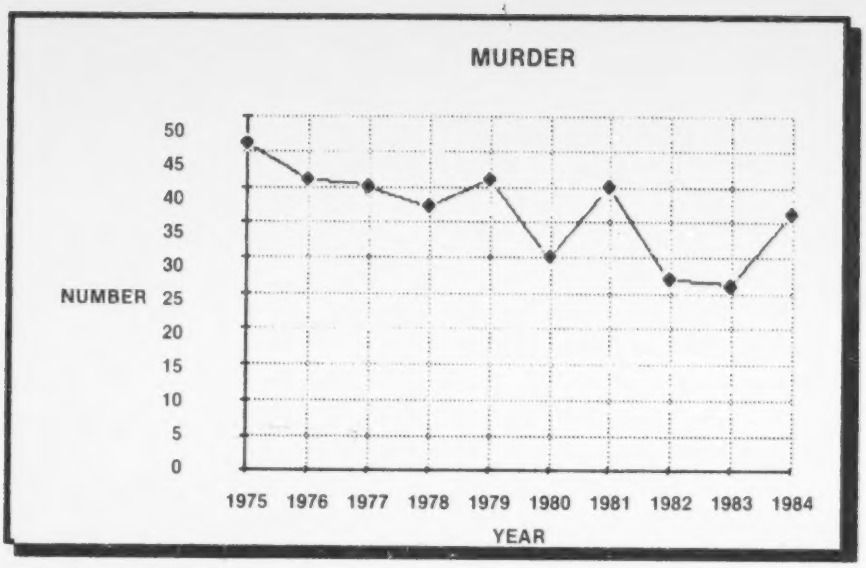
Total crime illustrated includes only the seven (7) major crimes: 1) murder; 2) rape; 3) robbery; 4) assault; 5) burglary; 6) larceny; and, 7) motor vehicle theft.

The seven (7) major crimes accounted for 34,988 offenses in 1984. Crimes against the person numbered 1,796, at 5.1 percent of the total, while crimes against property were reported at 33,192 which is 94.9 percent of the total.



Crime rate is a standard of measurement used to provide a uniform process of statistical analysis of crime in any given area. The crime rate is useful when comparing jurisdictions with unequal populations.

The chart above indicates a trend declining over the past ten (10) years. The base year of 1975 had a crime rate of 4,435 compared to the 4,246 rate in 1984. The low in 1978 actually measured 3,920 and in 1980 the high was 4,616. The calculated average would be in the 4,300 range.



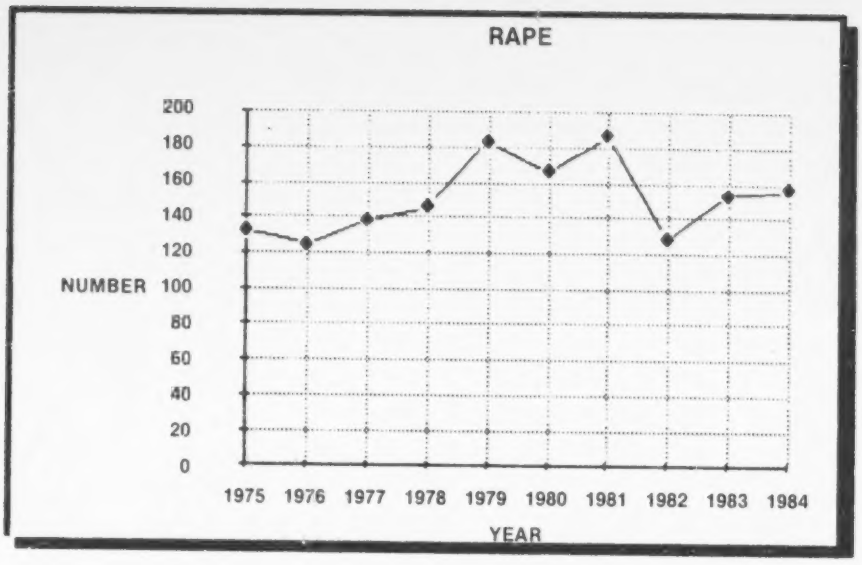
Murder is defined as the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another, except in those cases classified as justifiable homicides. Under the U.C.R. definition, justifiable homicides are specifically limited to the killing of an offender by a police officer in the line of duty or the killing of a felon by a private citizen. This definition does not take into consideration the findings of coroners' juries or other courts. Suicides are not defined as murders under U.C.R.. Attempts to commit murder are classified as aggravated assault.

1984 SUMMARY

A total of 36 murders was reported in 1984. During this year, the number of murders increased 44 percent compared to those reported in 1983.

There were 30 murders cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, for a clearance rate of 83.3 percent statewide. Four of the murders were cleared by the arrest of individuals under the age of 18.

Murders accounted for 2 percent of all crimes against persons and .1 percent of the total crime index. The murder rate in Montana was 0.4 per 10,000 population.



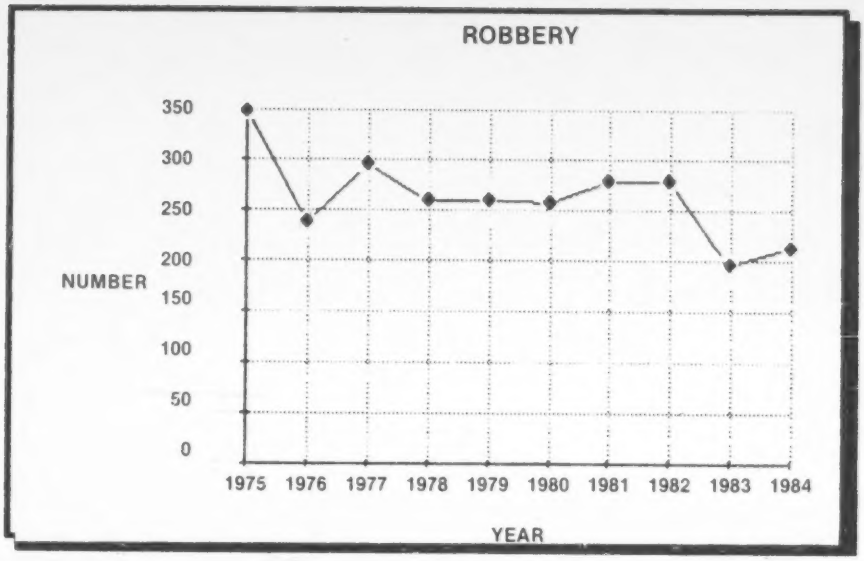
Forcible Rape is defined as the carnal knowledge of a female through the use or threat of force. Assaults to rape or attempts to commit rape are included in this category. One offense is counted for each victim of rape. Statutory rapes and other types of sexual assaults are not counted as rapes under the U.C.R. program.

1984 SUMMARY

A total of 156 rapes was reported in 1984. During this year, rapes increased 2 percent compared to those reported in 1983.

There were 75 rapes cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, amounting to a clearance rate of 48.1 percent statewide.

Rapes accounted for 8.7 percent of all crimes against persons and 0.4 percent of the total crime index. The rape rate in Montana was 1.9 per 10,000 population.



Robbery is defined as the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. Robbery is a violent crime in which the element of personal confrontation between the victim and offender is present. Attempts to rob are included in the robbery count. One robbery is counted for each distinct operation, regardless of the number of victims present at the time.

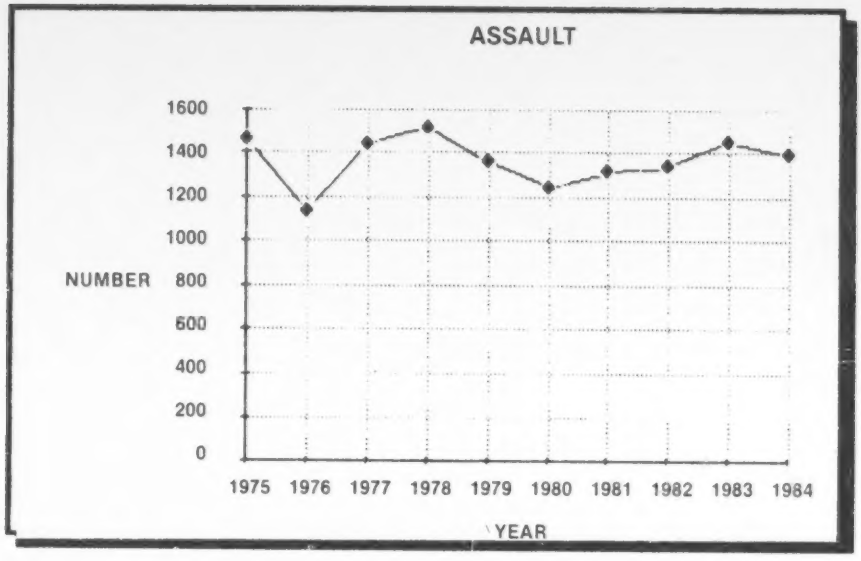
1984 SUMMARY

A total of 212 robberies was reported in 1984. During this year, robberies increased 8.7 percent compared to those reported in 1983.

There were 56 robberies cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared, amounting to a clearance rate of 26.4 percent.

Firearms were used in 35.4 percent of all robberies, cutting instruments in 17.9 percent, other weapons in 7.5 percent, and hands and feet in 39.2 percent.

Robberies accounted for 11.8 percent of all crimes against persons and 0.6 percent of the total crime index. The robbery rate in Montana was 2.57 per 10,000 population.



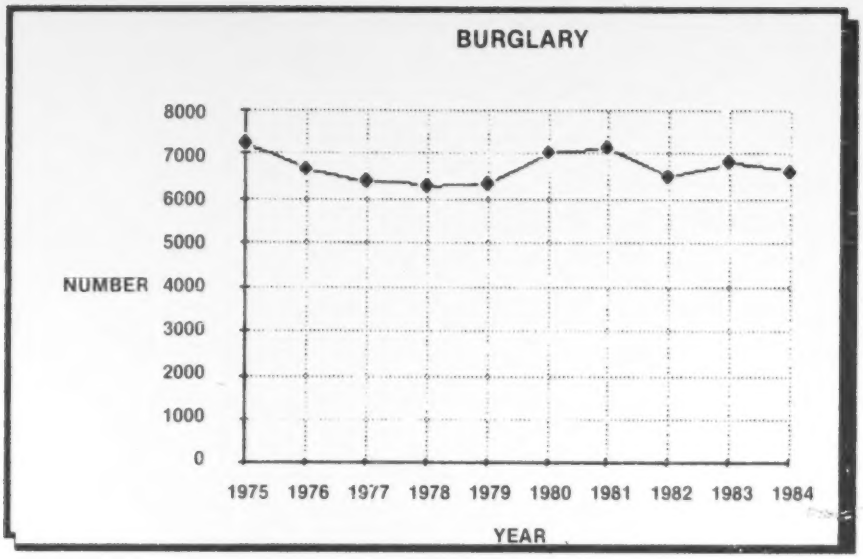
Aggravated Assault is defined as an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

1984 SUMMARY

A total of 1,392 aggravated assaults was reported in 1984. During this year, aggravated assaults decreased 3.9 percent from the 1983 total.

There were 576 aggravated assaults cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared for a clearance rate of 41.4 percent statewide.

Aggravated assaults accounted for 77.5 percent of all crimes against persons and 4.0 percent of the total crime index. The aggravated assault rate in Montana was 16.9 per 10,000 population.



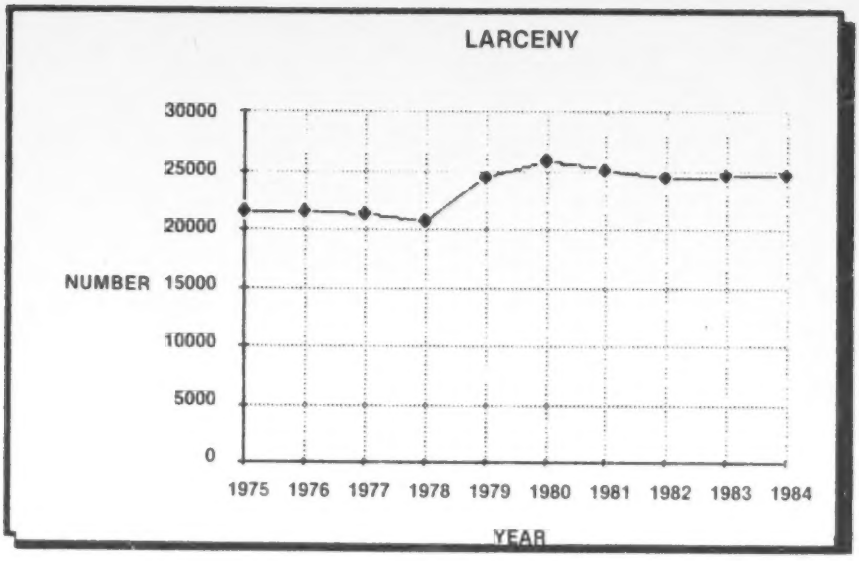
Burglary is the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft.

1984 SUMMARY

A total of 6,605 burglaries was reported in 1984. During the reporting year burglaries decreased 3 percent from the 1983 total.

There were 897 burglaries cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared for a clearance rate of 13.6 percent statewide. Two Hundred Seventy-five (275) of the clearances involved persons under 18 years of age.

Burglary accounted for 19.9 percent of all property crimes and 18.9 percent of the total crime index. The burglary rate in Montana was 80.2 per 10,000 population.

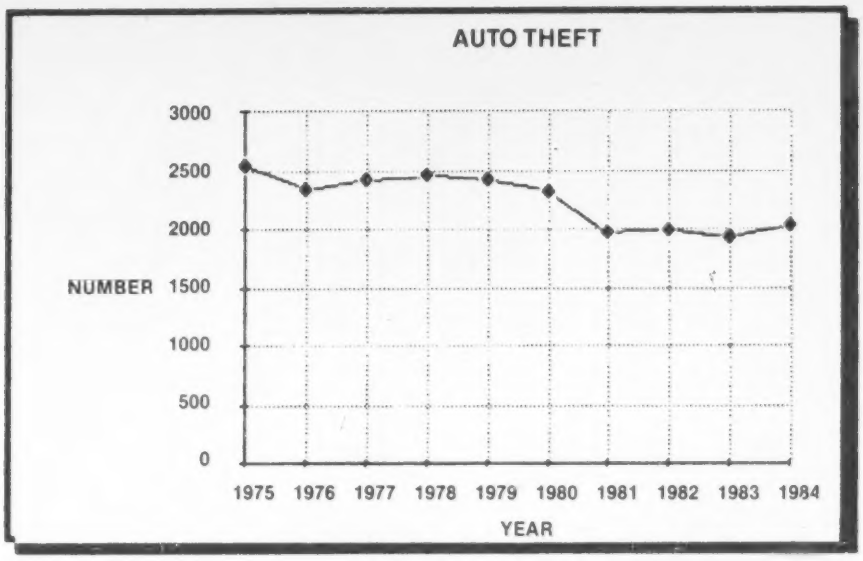


Larceny-theft is the unlawful taking, carrying, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. It includes crimes such as shoplifting, pocket-picking, purse-snatching, thefts from motor vehicles, thefts of motor vehicle parts and accessories, bicycle thefts, etc., in which no use of force, violence or fraud occurs.

1984 SUMMARY

The number of crimes classified as larceny reached 24,553 in 1984. This was a slight increase of 0.7 percent over the past year. There were 4,722 larcenies cleared by arrest or exception in 1984, which is a 19.2 percent clearance rate on a statewide basis. Persons under 18 years of age accounted for 1,555 of the clearances.

Larceny accounted for 74 percent of all property crimes and 70.2 percent of the total crime index. The larceny-theft rate in Montana was 298 per 10,000 population.



Motor vehicle theft is defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

1984 SUMMARY

A total of 2,034 motor vehicle thefts was reported in 1984. During the reporting year motor vehicle thefts increased 5.7 percent over 1983.

There were 619 motor vehicle thefts cleared by arrest or exception with a 30.4 percent clearance rate statewide. Motor vehicle thefts accounted for 6.1 percent of all property crimes, and 5.8 percent of the total crime index. The motor vehicle theft rate in Montana was 24.7 per 10,000 population.

OFFENSES

The 1984 state summary of offenses known to the police presents a breakdown of the numbers of offenses reported to law enforcement agencies, unfounded or baseless offenses reported, actual offenses, and offenses cleared by arrest. The column "Cleared by Arrest" is indicative of the total numbers of offenses, adult and juvenile, cleared by arrest. The "Cleared by Arrest Under 18" represents only juvenile arrests. The "Percent of Actual Offenses Cleared by Arrest" is the percent of total offenses, adult and juvenile, cleared by arrest.

1984
STATE SUMMARY OF
OFFENSES KNOWN TO THE POLICE

PART 1 OFFENSES—
SEVEN MAJOR CRIMES

	Offenses Reported Or Known By Police	Unfounded Offenses	Actual Offenses	Total Cleared By Arrest	Cleared By Arrest Under 18	% Actual Offenses Cleared By Arrest
Homicide	41	5	36	30	4	83.3
Rape	176	20	156	75	7	48.1
*Forcible	146*	17*	129*	62*	5*	48.1*
*Attempted	30*	3*	27*	13*	2	48.1*
Robbery	227	15	212	56	4	26.4
Aggravated Assault	1,427	35	1,392	576	75	41.4
Total Offenses Against Persons	**1,871**	**75**	**1,796**	**737**	**90**	**41.0**
Burglary	6,784	179	6,605	897	275	13.6
Larceny/Theft	25,132	579	24,553	4,722	1,555	19.2
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,318	284	2,034	619	164	30.4
*Autos	1,335*	198*	1,137*	377*	97*	33.2*
*Trucks & Buses	573*	62*	511*	140*	24*	27.4*
*Other Vehicles	410*	24*	386*	102*	43*	26.4*
Total Offenses Against Property	**34,234**	**1,042**	**33,192**	**6,238**	**1,994**	**18.8**
Total Seven Major Offenses	**36,105**	**1,117**	**34,988**	**6,975**	**2,084**	**19.9**
PART II OFFENSES						
Negligent Manslaughter	1	0	1	0	0	0.0
Other Assaults-Not Aggravated	3,043	42	3,001	1,335	163	44.5
Arson	138	5	133	37	7	27.8
Forgery & Counterfeiting	831	12	819	217	29	26.5
Fraud	2,370	48	2,322	929	17	40.0
Embezzlement	37	0	37	17	2	45.9
Stolen Property: Buying, Receiving, Possessing, Etc.	78	5	73	32	11	43.8
Vandalism	11,174	129	11,045	1,321	402	12.0
Weapons: Carrying, Possessing, Etc.	555	24	531	181	19	34.1
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	49	0	49	40	2	81.6
Sex Offenses	1,467	45	1,422	340	50	23.9
Narcotic Drug Laws	1,054	19	1,035	698	101	67.4
*Narcotics	73*	2*	71*	45*	1*	63.4
*Marijuana	711*	8*	703*	514*	89*	73.1
*Dangerous Drugs	242*	8*	234*	116*	10*	49.6
*Synthetics	28*	1*	27*	23*	1*	85.2
Gambling	37	5	32	5	0	28.1
Offenses Against Family and Children	563	47	516	149	4	28.9
Total Part 2 Offenses	**21,397**	**381**	**21,016**	**5,305**	**807**	**25.2**
GRAND TOTAL	**57,502**	**1,498**	**56,004**	**12,280**	**2,891**	**21.9**

*Indicates sub-categories of offense.

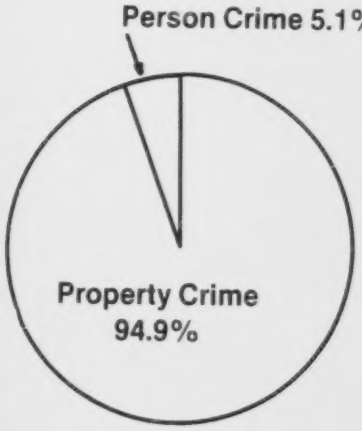
SECTION THREE

REPORTED OFFENSES

MONTANA OFFENSE SUMMARY—1984

From 1983 to 1984:

- There was a .7 percent decrease in the rate per 100,000 population of crime index offenses reported.
- There was a 1.4 percent decrease in the rate of violent crimes.
- There was a .1 percent increase in the rate of property crimes.



In 1984,

Of the 34,988 index offenses reported:

- Violent crime accounted for 5.1% (1,796)
- Property crime accounted for 94.9% (33,192)

Of the 1,796 violent crimes reported:

- Willful homicide accounted for 2.0 percent (36)
- Forcible rape accounted for 8.7 percent (156)
- Robbery accounted for 11.8 percent (212)
- Aggravated Assault accounted for 77.5 percent (1,392)

Of the 33,192 property crimes reported:

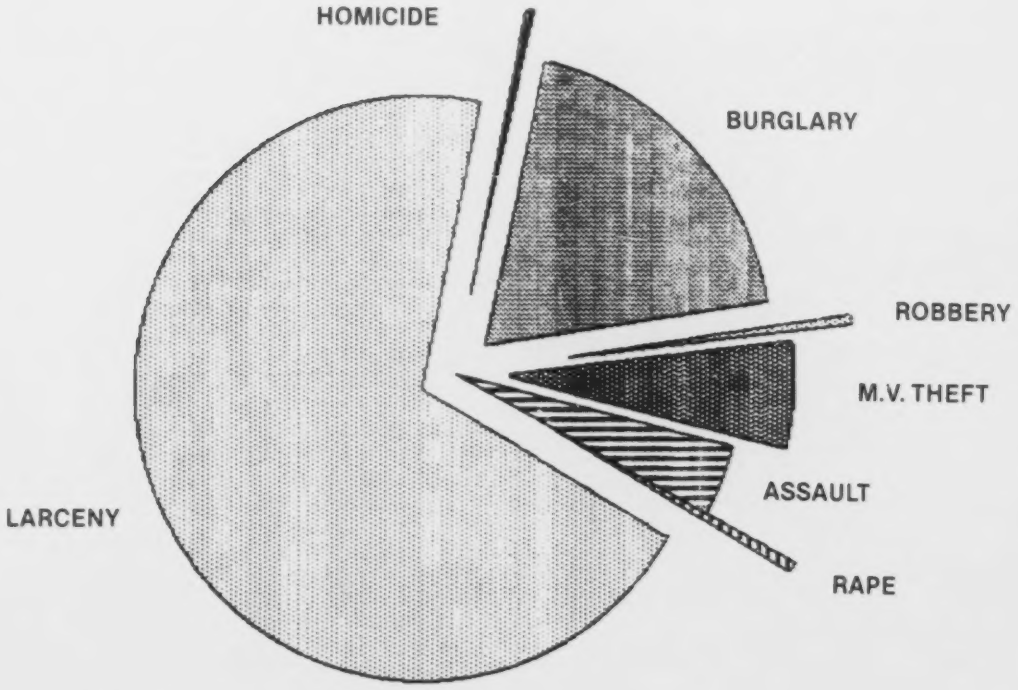
- Burglary accounted for 19.9 percent (6,605)
- Larceny/Theft accounted for 74.0 percent (24,553)
- Motor Vehicle Theft accounted for 6.1 percent (2,034)

Crime Index Profile

The circle below shows the proportion of each index crime to the total of all 1984 index crimes.

The three property crimes, burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft, accounted for 94.9 percent of all index crimes. The crimes against persons, homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, accounted for 5.1 percent of index crimes.

1984
CRIME INDEX PROFILE



	Number	% Total
Homicide	36	.1
Rape	156	.4
Robbery	212	.6
Assault	1,392	4.0
Burglary	6,605	18.9
Larceny	24,553	70.2
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,034	5.8
TOTAL INDEX	**34,988**	**100.0**

1984-CRIME RATE
SEVEN MAJOR INDEX CRIMES

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Montana's estimated population in 1984 was 824,000. This is the population figure used in calculating the crime rates in this publication.

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

Index Offenses	Number of Actual Offenses	Rate Per 100,000 Population
Homicide ...	36	4.7
Rape	156	18.9
Robbery	212	25.7
Aggravated Assault ...	1,392	168.9
Total	**1,796**	**218.0**

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

Index Offenses	Number of Actual Offenses	Rate Per 100,000 Population
Burglary	6,605	801.6
Larceny/ Theft	24,553	2979.7
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,034	246.8
Total	**33,192**	**4,028.2**

GRAND TOTAL **34,988** **4,246.1**

The 1984 Montana crime rate is 4,246.1. This means that 4,246 of every 100,000 Montana residents were victims of a major crime in 1984. In 1984 there were:

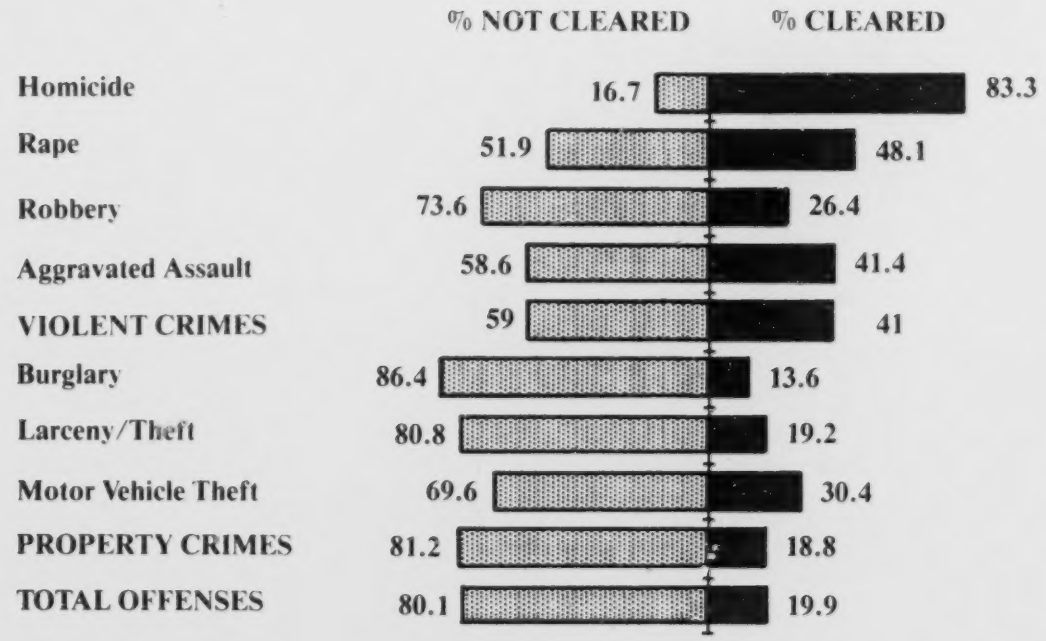
4,246 crimes per 100,000 persons
425 crimes per 10,000 persons
43 crimes per 1,000 persons
4 crimes per 100 persons

Clearances

An offense is considered cleared when a law enforcement agency has identified the offender, gathered sufficient evidence, and filed a charge, and he is actually taken into custody. The arrest of one person can clear several crimes or conversely, several persons may be arrested in the process of clearing one crime.

The following illustration shows the percentage of actual offenses cleared by arrest. Note that property crimes, burglary, larceny/theft and motor vehicle theft, have the lowest percentages of clearance, while violent crimes or crimes against persons have the highest percentages of clearance.

PERCENTAGE OF ACTUAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST—1984 SEVEN INDEX CRIMES



Crime Incidence Comparison

A comparison of the total number of actual crimes reported provides a measure of the fluctuation in criminal activity between 1983 and 1984.

The number of index crimes increased by 47 between 1983 and 1984, an increase of one-tenth of a percent. The overall incidence of crime increased 1.9 percent between 1983 and 1984.

CRIME INCIDENCE COMPARISON
1983-1984

Offense	1983	1984	Percent Change
Homicide	25	36	+ 44.0
Rape	153	156	+ 2.0
Robbery	195	212	+ 8.7
Aggravated Assault	1,448	1,392	- 3.9
Total Offenses Against Persons	**1,821**	**1,796**	- 1.4
Burglary	6,812	6,605	- 3.0
Larceny/Theft	24,384	24,553	+ 0.7
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,924	2,034	+ 5.7
Total Offenses Against Property	**33,120**	**33,192**	+ 0.2
Total Seven Major Offenses	**34,941**	**34,988**	+ 0.1
Negligent Manslaughter	6	1	- 83.3
Other Assaults	2,544	3,001	+ 18.0
Arson	157	133	- 15.3
Forgery & Counterfeiting	719	819	+ 13.9
Fraud	1,790	2,322	+ 29.7
Embezzlement	14	37	+164.3
Stolen Property	97	73	- 24.7
Vandalism	11,601	11,045	- 4.8
Weapons	512	531	+ 3.7
Prostitution	45	49	+ 8.9
Sex Offenses	1,184	1,422	+ 20.1
Drugs	814	1,035	+ 27.1
Gambling	17	32	+ 88.2
Offenses Against The Family	541	516	- 4.6
Total Part 2 Offenses	**20,041**	**21,016**	+ 4.9
GRAND TOTAL	**54,982**	**56,004**	+ 1.9

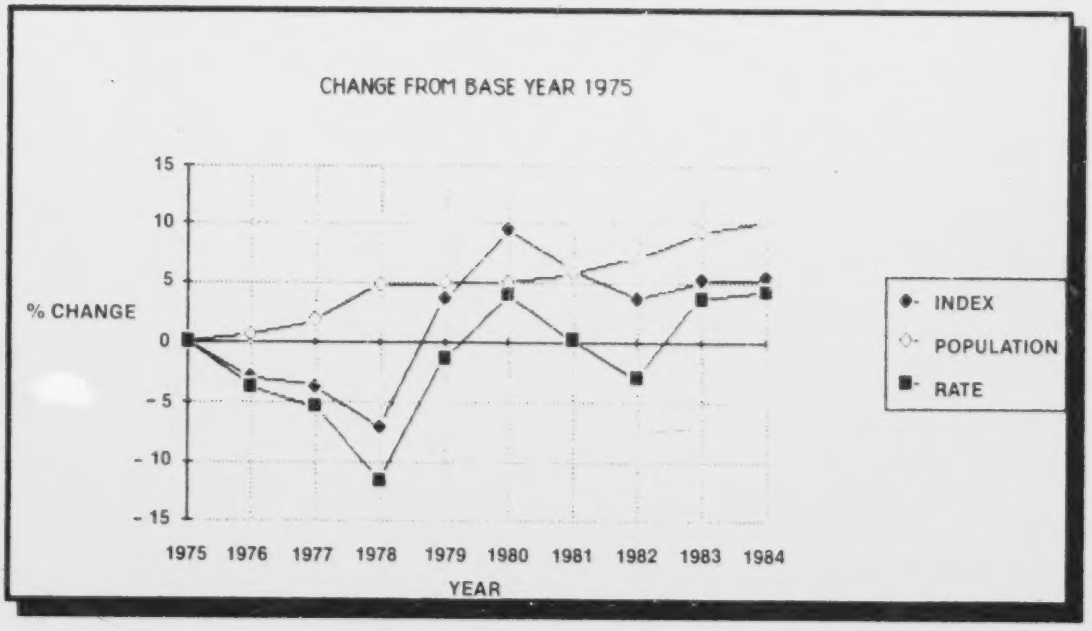
Crime and Population Growth Trends

The crime rate and population growth trends for the past ten years are shown below. The crime index reflects the actual number of crimes reported to law enforcement.

In 1975, 33,174 index crimes were recorded for a crime rate of 4435.0 per 100,000 population with a population of 748,000. By 1984, the number of index crimes had risen to 34,988 for a crime rate of 4246.1 with an estimated population of 824,000. The 1984 figures represent a 5.5 percent increase in the number of index crimes, a 4.3 percent decrease in the crime rate, and a 10.2 percent increase in the population over the 1975 figures.

The crime index and crime rate figures have experienced a relatively smaller percentage of growth than the population has over the ten year period. The crime index and crime rates have shown sharp, but sporadic increases over the period while the state population has shown a slight, but steady increase.

CRIME INDEX, CRIME RATE, AND POPULATION
(By Percent Change From 1975)



AGENCY REPORTS

This section contains a summary of offenses reported to each law enforcement agency. If the crime rates appear to be extreme for some jurisdictions, the cause could be a low population within that jurisdiction. In communities with low populations any fluctuation in the number of crimes has a major impact on the crime rate.

Summary

The 1984 crime rate for each reporting county in Montana is listed below. Eight counties had crime rates above the statewide total of **4246.1** crimes per 100,000 population and accounted for 69.5 percent of the state's reported index crimes.

The eight counties are not a contiguous geographical high crime area, nor do they all represent high population areas. Of the eight, five are considered high population areas (having a population of 40,000 or more). The other three are moderate to low population areas. In areas of low population any fluctuation in the number of index crimes has a major impact on the crime rate.

CRIME RATE BY COUNTY
1984 Ranking

Rank	County	Crime Rate	Rank	County	Crime Rate
1.	Cascade	6931.5	25.	Wheatland	2478.3
2.	Hill	6016.2	26.	Richland	2451.4
3.	Yellowstone	5909.9	27.	Phillips	2350.9
4.	Missoula	5682.4	28.	Toole	2333.3
5.	Broadwater	5588.2	29.	Musselshell	2297.9
6.	Flathead	5573.3	30.	Jefferson	2287.5
7.	Lewis & Clark	5452.0	31.	Sheridan	2237.3
8.	Deer Lodge	4330.4	32.	Madison	2069.0
9.	Roosevelt	4051.7	33.	Dawson	2039.4
STATE TOTAL		**4246.1**	34.	Stillwater	2000.0
10.	Silver Bow	4031.3	35.	Carbon	1907.0
11.	Gallatin	3970.6	36.	Rosebud	1780.3
12.	Meagher	3818.2	37.	Wibaux	1733.3
13.	Fergus	3527.1	38.	Sanders	1565.2
14.	Custer	3525.9	39.	Liberty	1280.0
15.	Beaverhead	3241.4	40.	Chouteau	1177.4
16.	*Park	3150.4	41.	Pondera	1154.9
17.	Ravalli	2996.0	42.	Blaine	1028.2
18.	Granite	2821.4	43.	Teton	968.8
19.	Lake	2799.0	44.	McCone	555.6
20.	Lincoln	2791.4	45.	Daniels	535.7
21.	Big Horn	2704.3	46.	*Fallon	447.4
22.	Valley	2620.0			
23.	Powder River	2560.0			
24.	Sweet Grass	2515.2			

* Denotes counties which did not have participation by all agencies within the county for all or part of 1984. A county's crime rate is decreased when there is less than 100 percent participation by all agencies.

Carter, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Mineral, Petroleum, Powell, Prairie, and Treasure counties did not report.

INDEX CRIMES REPORTED BY CONTRIBUTOR

AGENCY	MONTHS CONTRIB-UTED	1994 POPULA-TION ESTIMATE	CRIME RATE PER 100,000	CRIME INDEX	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRA-VATED ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY /THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY	**12**	**8700**	**3241.4**	**282**	**0**	**3**	**4**	**10**	**34**	**214**	**17**
Sheriff	12	4446	1889.3	84	0	0	2	1	10	65	6
Dillon	12	4254	4654.4	198	0	3	2	9	24	149	11
BIG HORN COUNTY	**12**	**11500**	**2704.3**	**311**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**48**	**53**	**182**	**27**
Sheriff	12	6605	4708.6	311	0	1	0	48	53	182	27
Crow Tribe	0	4038	REPORTS THROUGH BIA								
Northern Cheyenne	0	857	REPORTS THROUGH BIA								
BLAINE COUNTY	**12**	**7100**	**1028.2**	**73**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**13**	**47**	**7**
Sheriff	12	5308	1375.3	73	0	0	0	6	13	47	7
Ft. Belknap	0	1792	REPORTS THROUGH BIA								
BROADWATER COUNTY	**12**	**3400**	**5588.2**	**190**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**11**	**28**	**142**	**8**
Sheriff	12	3400	5588.2	190	0	0	1	11	28	142	8
CARBON COUNTY	**12**	**8600**	**1907.0**	**164**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**56**	**98**	**4**
Sheriff	12	6540	1865.4	122	0	0	0	2	47	70	3
Red Lodge	12	2060	2038.8	42	0	0	0	4	9	28	1
CARTER COUNTY	**0**	**1800**									
Sheriff	0	1800	DID NOT REPORT								
CASCADE COUNTY	**12**	**81800**	**6931.5**	**5670**	**4**	**16**	**45**	**246**	**1136**	**3734**	**489**
Sheriff	12	23444	5097.3	1195	0	1	11	208	192	493	290
Great Falls	12	58356	7668.4	4475	4	15	34	38	944	3241	199
CHOUTEAU COUNTY	**12**	**6200**	**1177.4**	**73**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**20**	**39**	**12**
Sheriff	12	4358	1468.6	64	0	1	0	1	18	33	11
Fort Benton	12	1707	527.2	9	0	0	0	0	2	6	1
Rocky Boy	0	135	REPORTS THROUGH BIA								
CUSTER COUNTY	**12**	**13500**	**3525.9**	**476**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**37**	**75**	**336**	**26**
Sheriff/ Miles City	12	13500	3525.9	476	0	2	0	37	75	336	26
DANIELS COUNTY	**12**	**2800**	**535.7**	**15**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**11**	**0**
Sheriff	12	2800	535.7	15	0	0	0	0	4	11	0
DAWSON COUNTY	**12**	**12700**	**2039.4**	**259**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**31**	**216**	**7**
Sheriff	12	6194	1227.0	76	0	0	0	1	7	66	2
Glendive	12	6506	2812.8	183	0	1	1	2	24	150	5
DEER LODGE COUNTY/	**12**	**11200**	**4330.4**	**485**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**24**	**159**	**283**	**15**
Sheriff/Anaconda	12	11200	4330.4	485	0	4	0	24	159	283	15
FALLON COUNTY	**12**	**3800**	**447.4**	**17**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**11**	**2**
Sheriff	12	1408	852.3	12	0	0	0	0	3	7	2
Baker	2	2392	209.0	5	0	0	0	0	1	4	0

See notes at end of table

AGENCY	MONTHS CONTRIBUTED	1984 POPULATION ESTIMATE	CRIME RATE PER 100,000	CRIME INDEX	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
FERGUS COUNTY	**12**	**12900**	**3527.1**	**455**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**43**	**46**	**349**	**16**
Sheriff	12	5942	1716.6	102	0	0	0	16	9	72	5
Lewistown	12	6958	5073.3	353	0	1	0	27	37	277	11
FLATHEAD COUNTY	**12**	**53900**	**5573.3**	**3004**	**4**	**13**	**10**	**193**	**574**	**2054**	**159**
Sheriff	12	35871	4098.0	1470	1	10	6	67	398	908	80
Columbia Falls	12	3180	3144.7	100	0	1	0	2	25	62	10
Kalispell	12	10860	11657.5	1266	0	1	2	120	128	963	52
Whitefish	12	3989	4211.6	168	0	1	2	4	23	121	17
GALLATIN COUNTY	**P**	**47600**	**3970.6**	**1890**	**1**	**7**	**8**	**167**	**273**	**1321**	**113**
Sheriff	12	23115	2254.0	521	1	2	2	70	130	290	26
Bozeman	12	23676	5178.2	1226	0	5	6	95	135	911	74
West Yellowstone	12	809	12113.7	98	0	0	0	1	8	76	13
MSU Campus	3	*	*	45	0	0	0	1	0	44	0
GARFIELD COUNTY	**0**	**1700**									
Sheriff	0	0					DID NOT REPORT				
GLACIER COUNTY	**0**	**11300**									
Sheriff	0	6521					DID NOT REPORT				
Blackfeet Tribe	0	4779					REPORTS THROUGH BIA				
GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY	**0**	**1100**									
Sheriff	0	0					DID NOT REPORT				
GRANITE COUNTY	**12**	**2800**	**2821.4**	**79**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**1**	**67**	**7**
Sheriff	12	2800	2821.4	79	0	0	0	4	1	67	7
HILL COUNTY	**12**	**18500**	**6016.2**	**1113**	**2**	**9**	**2**	**39**	**166**	**836**	**59**
Sheriff	12	5737	4410.0	253	0	4	0	34	69	132	14
Havre	12	11276	7626.8	860	2	5	2	5	97	704	45
Rocky Boy Tribe	0	1487					REPORTS THROUGH BIA				
JEFFERSON COUNTY	**12**	**8000**	**2287.5**	**183**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**10**	**30**	**134**	**9**
Sheriff	12	6353	1983.3	126	0	0	0	8	25	86	7
Boulder	12	1647	3460.8	57	0	0	0	2	5	48	2
JUDITH BASIN COUNTY	**0**	**2700**									
Sheriff	0	2700					DID NOT REPORT				
LAKE COUNTY	**12**	**20400**	**2799.0**	**571**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**11**	**130**	**382**	**43**
Sheriff	12	20400	2799.0	571	3	1	1	11	130	382	43
Flathead Tribe	0	0					REPORTS THROUGH SHERIFF				
LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY	**12**	**45800**	**5452.0**	**2497**	**3**	**18**	**13**	**52**	**364**	**1943**	**104**
Sheriff	12	18766	3181.3	597	2	12	1	22	123	414	23
Helena	12	25055	7216.1	1808	1	6	11	28	236	1446	80
East Helena	12	1969	4672.4	92	0	0	1	2	5	83	1
LIBERTY COUNTY	**12**	**2500**	**1280.0**	**32**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**26**	**2**
Sheriff	12	2500	1280.0	32	0	0	0	0	4	26	2

See notes at end of table

AGENCY	MONTHS CONTRIBUTED	1984 POPULATION ESTIMATE	CRIME RATE PER 100,000	CRIME INDEX	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY /THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
LINCOLN COUNTY	**12**	**18700**	**2791.4**	**522**	**1**	**0**	**3**	**28**	**84**	**381**	**25**
Sheriff	12	17544	2599.2	456	1	0	3	23	82	330	17
Troy	12	1156	5709.3	66	0	0	0	5	2	51	8
McCONE COUNTY	**12**	**2700**	**555.6**	**15**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**12**	**2**
Sheriff	12	2700	555.6	15	0	1	0	0	0	12	2
MADISON COUNTY	**12**	**5800**	**2069.0**	**120**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**15**	**24**	**72**	**7**
Sheriff	12	5800	2069.0	120	2	0	0	15	24	72	7
MEAGHER COUNTY	**12**	**2200**	**3818.2**	**84**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**15**	**56**	**6**
Sheriff	12	2200	3818.2	84	0	0	0	7	15	56	6
MINERAL COUNTY	**0**	**3700**									
Sheriff	0	3700					DID NOT REPORT				
MISSOULA COUNTY	**12**	**76500**	**5682.4**	**4347**	**4**	**34**	**24**	**112**	**743**	**3215**	**215**
Sheriff	12	42554	2697.7	1148	1	12	6	50	275	740	64
Missoula	12	33649	9507.0	3199	3	22	18	62	468	2475	151
Flathead Tribe	0	297					REPORTS THROUGH BIA				
MUSSELSHELL COUNTY	**12**	**4700**	**2297.9**	**108**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**7**	**29**	**62**	**8**
Sheriff	12	4700	2297.9	108	0	1	1	7	29	62	8
PARK COUNTY	**P**	**13300**	**3150.4**	**419**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**22**	**51**	**318**	**26**
Sheriff	0	6130					DID NOT REPORT				
Livingston	12	7170	5843.8	419	0	1	1	22	51	318	26
PETROLEUM COUNTY	**0**	**700**									
Sheriff	0	700					DID NOT REPORT				
PHILLIPS COUNTY	**12**	**5700**	**2350.9**	**134**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**17**	**106**	**6**
Sheriff	12	3030	2541.3	77	0	0	0	2	17	52	6
Malta	12	2504	2276.4	57	0	0	0	3	0	54	0
Fort Belknap	-	166					REPORTS THROUGH BIA				
PONDERA COUNTY	**12**	**7100**	**1154.9**	**82**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**16**	**57**	**9**
Sheriff	12	3363	1784.1	60	0	0	0	0	15	36	9
Conrad	12	3160	696.2	22	0	0	0	0	1	21	0
Blackfeet	-	577					REPORTS THROUGH BIA				
POWDER RIVER COUNTY	**12**	**2500**	**2560.0**	**64**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**9**	**47**	**6**
Sheriff	12	2500	2560.0	64	0	0	0	2	9	47	6
POWELL COUNTY	**0**	**6900**									
Sheriff	0	6900					DID NOT REPORT				
PRAIRIE COUNTY	**0**	**1900**									
Sheriff	0	1900					DID NOT REPORT				

See notes at end of table

AGENCY	MONTHS CONTRIBUTED	1984 POPULATION ESTIMATE	CRIME RATE PER 100 000	CRIME INDEX	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY /THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
RAVALLI COUNTY	**12**	**24800**	**2996.0**	**743**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**83**	**93**	**526**	**38**
Sheriff	12	21918	2468.3	541	1	1	1	67	76	364	31
Hamilton	12	2882	7009.0	202	0	0	0	16	17	162	7
RICHLAND COUNTY	**12**	**14400**	**2451.4**	**353**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**19**	**54**	**267**	**12**
Sheriff	12	7456	1622.9	121	0	1	0	11	26	79	4
Sidney	12	6944	3341.0	232	0	0	0	8	28	188	8
ROOSEVELT COUNTY	**12**	**11600**	**4051.7**	**470**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**22**	**85**	**323**	**38**
Sheriff	12	7628	6161.5	470	2	0	0	22	85	323	38
Fort Peck	-	3972	REPORTS THROUGH BIA								
ROSEBUD COUNTY	**12**	**13200**	**1780.3**	**235**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**44**	**174**	**16**
Sheriff	12	10813	2173.3	235	0	0	0	1	44	174	16
Northern Cheyenne	-	2387	REPORTS THROUGH BIA								
SANDERS COUNTY	**P**	**9200**	**1565.2**	**144**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**16**	**25**	**95**	**7**
Sheriff	12	3458	2920.8	101	0	1	0	13	19	63	5
Hot Springs	6	570	1403.5	8	0	0	0	0	2	6	0
Thompson Falls	10	1571	2227.9	35	0	0	0	3	4	26	2
Flathead Tribe	-	297	REPORTS THROUGH BIA								
SHERIDAN COUNTY	**12**	**5900**	**2237.3**	**132**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**12**	**30**	**84**	**5**
Sheriff	12	3211	840.9	27	0	0	0	0	16	11	0
Plentywood	12	2689	3904.8	105	0	1	0	12	14	73	5
SILVER BOW COUNTY	**12**	**35200**	**4031.3**	**1419**	**3**	**3**	**10**	**23**	**340**	**961**	**79**
Sheriff	12	35200	4031.3	1419	3	3	10	23	340	961	79
STILLWATER COUNTY	**12**	**6000**	**2000.0**	**120**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**13**	**22**	**80**	**5**
Sheriff	12	6000	2000.0	120	0	0	0	13	22	80	5
SWEETGRASS COUNTY	**12**	**3300**	**2515.2**	**83**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**16**	**56**	**6**
Sheriff	12	3300	2515.2	83	0	0	0	5	16	56	6
TETON COUNTY	**12**	**6400**	**968.8**	**62**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**25**	**33**	**3**
Sheriff	12	6400	968.8	62	0	0	0	1	25	33	3
TOOLE COUNTY	**12**	**5700**	**2333.3**	**133**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**29**	**82**	**17**
Sheriff	12	5700	2333.3	133	1	0	1	3	29	82	17
TREASURE COUNTY	**0**	**1000**									
Sheriff	0	1000	DID NOT REPORT								
VALLEY COUNTY	**12**	**10000**	**2620.0**	**262**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**12**	**36**	**202**	**12**
Sheriff	12	5174	1237.0	64	0	0	0	2	16	41	5
Glasgow	12	4325	4578.0	198	0	0	0	10	20	161	7
Fort Peck	-	501	REPORTS THROUGH BIA								
WHEATLAND COUNTY	**12**	**2300**	**2478.3**	**57**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**8**	**45**	**1**
Sheriff	12	2300	2478.3	57	0	0	0	3	8	45	1

See notes at end of table

AGENCY	MONTHS CONTRIB-UTED	1984 POPULA-TION ESTIMATE	CRIME RATE PER 100,000	CRIME INDEX	HOMICIDE	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRA-VATED ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY /THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
WIBAUX COUNTY	**12**	**1500**	**1733.3**	**26**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**6**	**17**	**2**
Sheriff	12	707	2263.1	16	0	0	0	1	6	9	0
Wibaux	12	793	1261.0	10	0	0	0	0	0	8	2
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY	**12**	**118700**	**5909.9**	**7015**	**8**	**35**	**86**	**69**	**1603**	**4857**	**357**
Sheriff	12	40626	3143.3	1277	3	7	6	13	286	894	68
Billings	12	71938	7685.8	5529	5	28	80	45	1284	3801	286
Laurel	12	6054	3452.3	209	0	0	0	11	33	162	3
Crow Tribe	-	82					REPORTS THROUGH BIA				
STATE TOTAL		**824000**	**4246.1**	**34988**	**36**	**156**	**212**	**1392**	**6605**	**24553**	**2034**
****GLACIER NATIONAL PARK**	**A**			****37**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**4**	**32**	**0**

*** The Lake County Sheriff has concurrent jurisdiction within the Flathead Reservation.**

**** Not included in State Total.**

1. DID NOT REPORT means the agency did not report data to the Criminal Justice Data Center during the year 1984.

2. The crime rate per 100,000 population is given for each agency as if a full twelve months data had been submitted. "P" after the county name in the "months contributing" column denotes a county in which some of the contributing agencies reported for less than 12 months. The crime rate per 100,000 for these counties may appear lower than it would have if a full 12 months data had been available for all agencies within the county.

3. The 1984 population figures were obtained from the State Census and Economic Center and based on U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates.

4. The crime rates for some cities are not listed individually because their crime reports are submitted through the sheriff's office.

SECTION FOUR

JUVENILE PROBATION INFORMATION SYSTEM

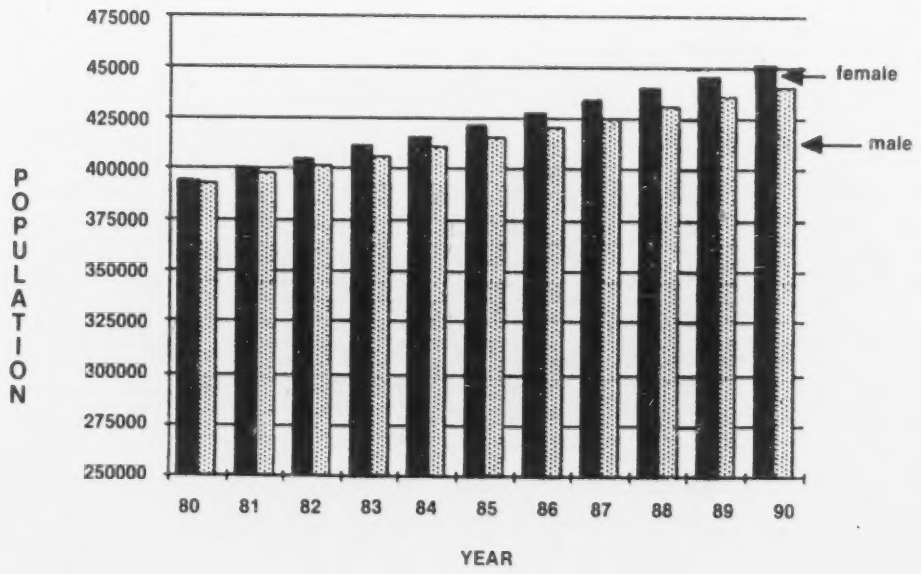
INTRODUCTION

This section of Crime in Montana describes the nature and magnitude of referrals to the Youth Court. The Youth Court represents the "heart" of Montana's juvenile justice system. It is responsible for the processing of youth through the system, deciding their ultimate fate, and supervising them through probation. The data show those youth who found themselves referred to the court by law enforcement, schools, parents or other sources. It is not a reflection of total delinquent activity because some youth are handled by only law enforcement and parents.

Data were obtained from the University of Montana to project the population of adults and juveniles in the state through 1990. Dr. John McQuistion provided this service to the Board at no charge and his work is appreciated. The first three graphs show his work.

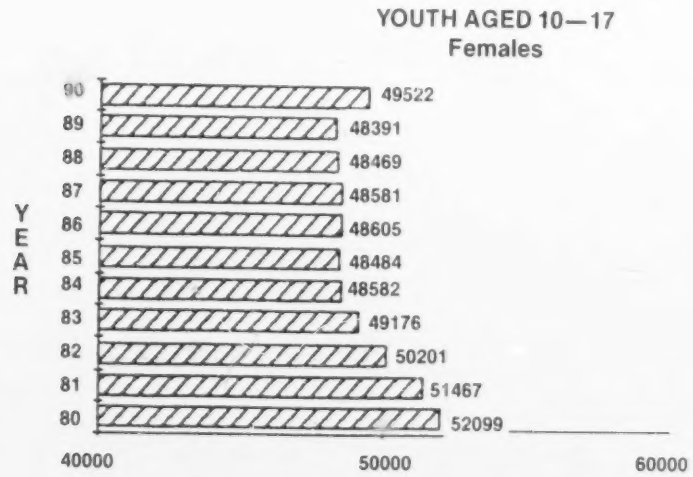
The first graph represents the growth in the total population of Montana for males and females from 1980 through 1990. The trend is for slowly increasing population, but by 1990 the total population is still projected to be less than 1 million. The steady but slow natural growth of the population foretells that Montana's juvenile population will continue to be rural, small, and spread out across vast acreage.

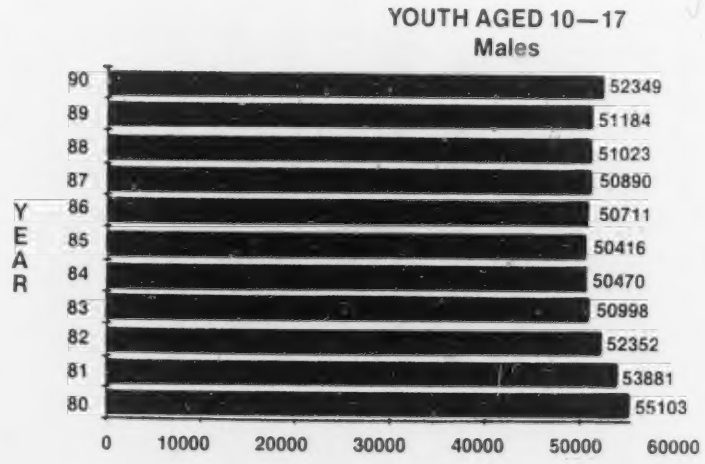
MONTANA POPULATION PROJECTIONS



The second two graphs break the population down to examine the fluctuation of the number of juveniles in the age group 10 to 17 years old. Both graphs underscore a key consideration, the growth of the youth population was from 1980 to 1984. Even through the end of the decade growth is minimal, barely starting to increase by 1990. By 1990 there will be fewer youth than there were in 1980. As demographers across the nation point out, the "baby boom" swell has passed the critical ages of criminality. Our population structure is aging. The changing age structure has important considerations for both juvenile and adult justice systems. Ripples or echoes of the "baby boom" should be anticipated in juvenile justice planning.

YOUTH POPULATION PROJECTIONS

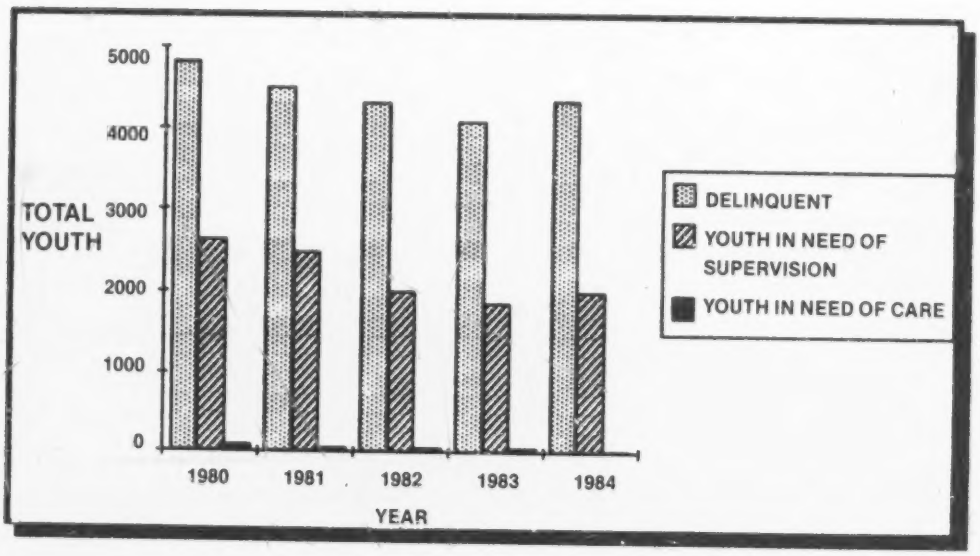




INTRODUCTION: YOUTH COURT REFERRALS

The Montana Youth Courts participating in the Juvenile Probation Information System (J.P.I.S.) in 1984 handled a total of 4,985 individual youth. Each youth was referred to the courts an average of 1.3 times for a total of 6,414 referrals and 8,439 offenses. Both referrals and offenses have declined since 1980 when there were 7,558 youth referrals for 10,153 offenses. The reasons for the decline are diverse and elusive. This report will not attempt to draw conclusions about this trend. Readers are encouraged to contact their local youth court officials and discuss the data for their jurisdiction and potential reasons for increases or decreases.

The youth court basically has jurisdiction over delinquent youth and youth in need of supervision. A delinquent youth is a youth who commits any criminal offense. A youth in need of supervision is a youth who has committed an offense which is illegal only for minors. Such offenses include, but are not limited to, runaway, truancy, and liquor violations. Youth in need of supervision are commonly referred to as status offenders and the offenses they commit are called status offenses.



Reasons For Referral

The Youth Court population has historically been composed of a high proportion of criminal offenders (delinquents) as opposed to non-criminal status offenders. More than two-thirds of the 1984 referrals were for criminal acts of delinquency.

The chart below shows a breakdown of Montana Youth Court activity in 1984. The offenses and activities listed are composed of individual statutes which have been grouped into related categories. The categories are "Crimes Against Persons", "Crimes Against Property", "Drug Offenses", "Offenses Against the Public Order", and "Status Offenses".

The major reason for referral in 1984 of youth to Youth Court was for crimes against property. Various types of larceny accounted for 54 percent of these property crimes, with misdemeanor theft accounting for almost one-half of the larcenies.

Offenses against the public order were the next leading reason for delinquent referrals, followed by referrals for drug offenses. Although violent crimes against persons accounted for the smallest percentage of delinquent referrals in 1984, they still represented 4.1 percent of referrals for a total of 260 offenses.

The status offenders constituted about one-third of the Youth Court population. There were 2,014 status offenses in 1984. Liquor violations and runaways were the leading reasons for referral. The number of youth shown as liquor violators reflects only those youth who were sent to the Youth Court. The number of youth who violate liquor laws is larger than shown here because the lower courts share jurisdiction over these offenders and handle the majority of cases.

1984 MONTANA YOUTH COURT ACTIVITY BY TYPE OF OFFENSE OR ACTIVITY

CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS	
Criminal Homicide	1
Forcible Rape	18
Robbery	4
Aggravated Assault	25
Simple Assault	209
Other Person Offenses	3
Total Crimes Against Persons	**260**
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY	
Burglary	301
Larceny	1,545
Motor Vehicle Theft	118
Arson & Vandalism	582
Stolen Property Offenses	26
Trespassing	237
Other Property Offenses	60
Total Crimes Against Property	**2,866**
DRUG OFFENSES	
Substance Abuse	475
Total Drug Offenses	**475**
OFFENSES AGAINST THE PUBLIC ORDER	
Weapons	11
Sex Offenses	62
Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants	29
Disturbing the Peace	224
Escape, Contempt, Probation, Parole	129
Traffic Crime	146
Other Offenses Against Public Order	125
Total Offenses Against Public Order	**726**
STATUS OFFENSES	
Runaway	528
Curfew/Loitering	266
Ungovernable	296
Liquor	853
Other Status Offenses	71
Total Status Offenses	**2,014**
NON-OFFENSE RELATED ACTIVITY	
Total Non-Offense Related Activity	**73**
TOTAL ALL OFFENSES	**6,414**

In 1984, 70.2% of the youths referred to Montana Youth Courts were referred for one of the following ten violations. The violations are listed in descending order from the one which occurred most frequently.

THE TEN VIOLATIONS WHICH ARE THE MOST FREQUENT REASONS FOR REFERRAL TO MONTANA YOUTH COURTS

VIOLATION WHICH CAUSED REFERRAL	NUMBERS OF YOUTH REFERRALS
Misdemeanor Theft	1,295
Liquor Violation	1,002
Runaway	,692
Criminal Mischief	598
Shoplifting	496
Burglary	440
Possession of Intoxicating Substance by Children	390
Curfew Violation	388
Ungovernable	364
Criminal Trespass to Property	259
TOTAL OF TEN VIOLATIONS	**5,924**

Age

The jurisdiction of Montana's Youth Courts generally ends when a youth turns 18. In some circumstances the courts may handle 18 year olds who are under their jurisdiction or have other special problems. The following chart illustrates the age distribution of the youths referred in 1984.

YOUTH REFERRED TO MONTANA YOUTH COURTS IN 1984 BY AGE AT TIME OF REFERRAL

AGE	NUMBER OF REFERRALS	PERCENT OF REFERRALS
0- 8	103	1.7
9	80	1.2
10	119	1.9
11	167	2.6
12	294	4.6
13	641	10.1
14	907	14.1
15	1,265	19.7
16	1,367	21.3
17	1,419	22.1
* 18 and over	59	1.0
TOTAL	6,414	100.0

* Offense occurred before juvenile turned 18 years of age.

Repeat Offenders

The common belief that a small number of juveniles commit a disproportionate share of offenses is born out by the Youth Court data. In 1984, 5.4 percent of the youth handled by the court were referred three or more times. These youth accounted for 16 percent of the total referrals.

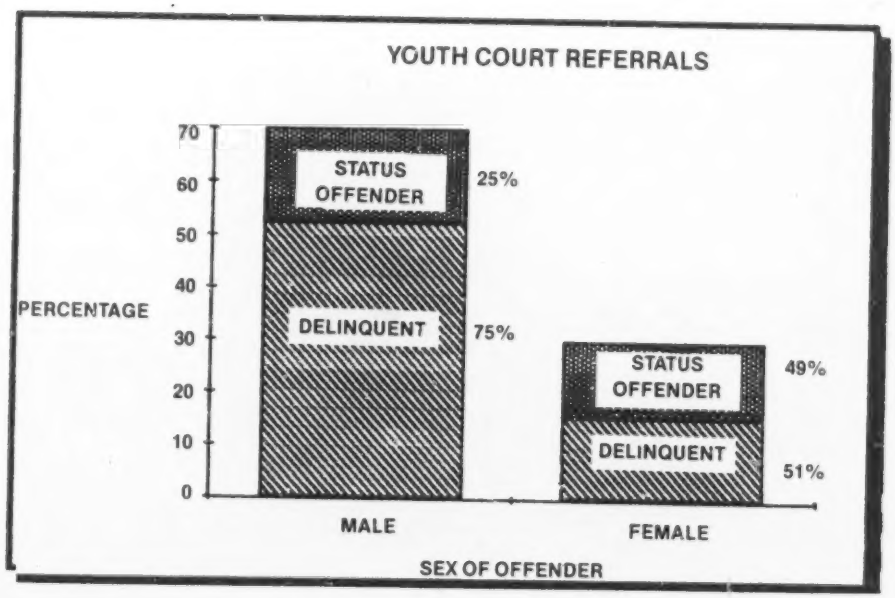
Conversely, most youth had only one referral to Youth Court in 1984. Eighty-one percent of the youths referred in 1984 responded to the Youth Court action and did not come to the formal attention of the Youth Court again.

Sex

The Youth Court population in 1984 was predominantly male. Seventy percent of the overall population was male compared to 30 percent female. The types of offenses committed by males and females differed considerably. Seventy-five percent of the males were referred for delinquency and the remaining 25 percent were referred for status offenses. This compares to 51 percent of female referrals for delinquency and 49 percent for status offenses.

The chart below shows the breakdown of male and female youth court referrals by reason for referral.

MONTANA YOUTH COURT REFERRALS — 1984
BY SEX OF OFFENDER AND REASON FOR REFERRAL

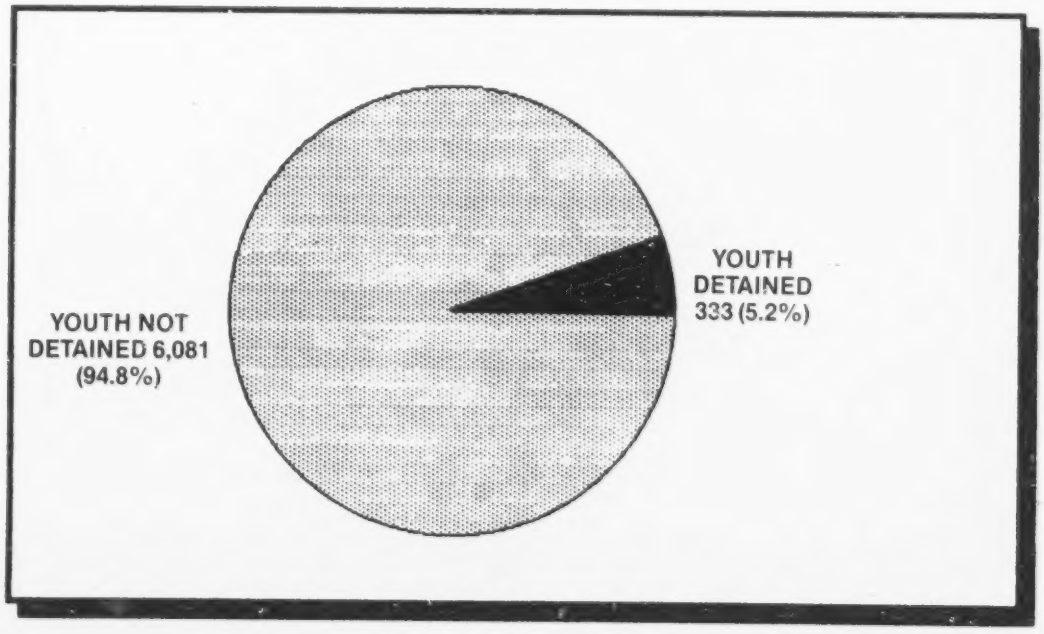


DETENTION

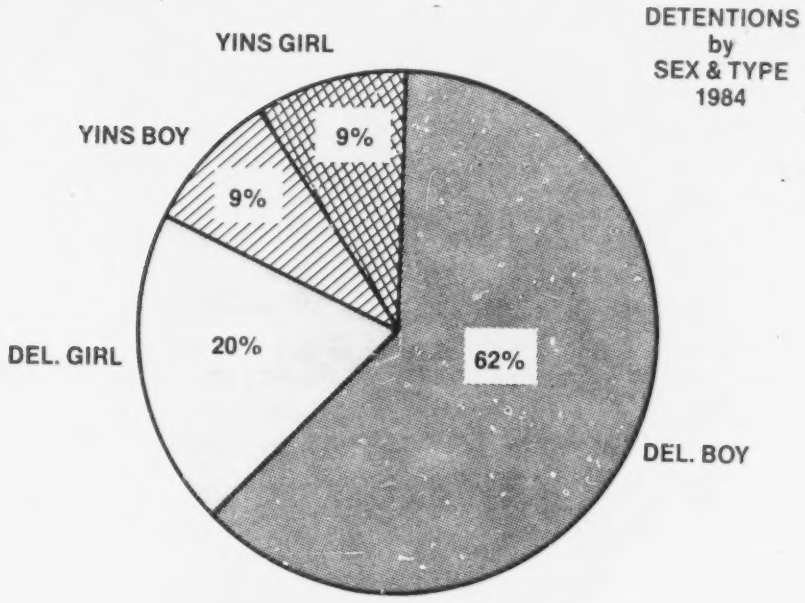
A small number of the youth referred to Youth Court spend time in detention while awaiting court appearances. These youth are placed in county jails under the authority of local Youth Courts. There were 333 detentions in 1984, representing 275 individual youth. Five percent of the youth processed by Montana Youth Courts in 1984 spent some time in jail.

The numbers of youth in detention has steadily dropped since the inception of sheltercare in 1976. Sheltercare is an alternative to jail in which the youth lives in a supervised group home or foster home while awaiting court action. Detention does not include time spent after sentencing in correctional facilities such as Pine Hills School for Boys, Mountain View School for Girls, or Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch.

1984 RATE OF DETENTION AS A PERCENT OF 6,414 TOTAL YOUTH COURT REFERRALS



The next graph is of the 1984 detentions by sex and type of offense (whether Delinquent or Youth In Need of Supervision). It shows over 60 percent of the detentions were boys who were alleged to have committed a delinquent offense. An additional 20 percent were girls accused of delinquent offenses. Boys and girls were equally represented in detentions as YINS at 9 percent. As expected, when juveniles are in jail they will probably be boys who committed some criminal offense.



NOTE: YINS = Youth in Need of Supervision

Length of Detention

The average length of detention in 1984 was about 85 hours. The "12 hour to 24 hour" time period was the most frequently utilized length of detention, representing 20.4 percent of the total cases. The percent of youth held less than two days is 55.3.

The number of youth detained has dropped steadily over the past five years. As the total has dropped, we have seen an increase in the average length of time spent in jail.

The following chart shows the distribution of periods of time that juveniles are held in detention. While a majority of youth are detained for short periods of time, a small part of the population is detained for over five days. The youth detained over 5 days represented only 21 percent of the detention population, but they accounted for almost two-thirds of the total hours of detention. Each of these youths spent an average of 260.8 hours, nearly eleven days, in detention.

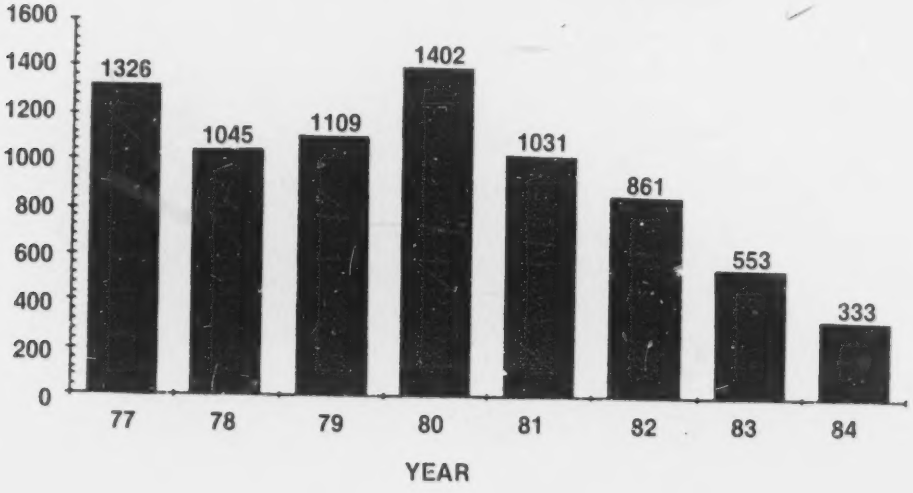
LENGTH OF DETENTION AND FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE

LENGTH OF STAY	# OF YOUTH DETAINED	% OF TOTAL YOUTH DETAINED	TOTAL HOURS SPENT IN DETENTION	% OF TOTAL HOURS	AVERAGE TIME SPENT PER YOUTH
0- 4 hrs.	14	4.2	5.68	.1	1.1
4-12 hrs.	33	10.0	290.5	1.0	8.8
12-24 hrs.	68	20.4	1,284.0	4.5	18.9
1- 2 days	69	20.7	2,558.5	90.0	37.1
2- 3 days	38	11.4	2,309.0	81.0	60.8
3- 4 days	24	7.2	2,000.1	70.0	83.3
4- 5 days	17	5.1	1,815.2	64.0	106.8
5 + days	70	21.0	18,255.8	64.0	260.8
	333		28,528.7		

The following series of graphs concern juvenile detentions from 1977 through 1984. The base of data was started in 1977 but since jurisdictions were added to the system in later years, the most representative years start with 1980. The years of 1977, '78, and '79 are included because in spite of their failure to be inclusive, the numbers reported are still very high and the downward trend consistently seen since then is even more enormous.

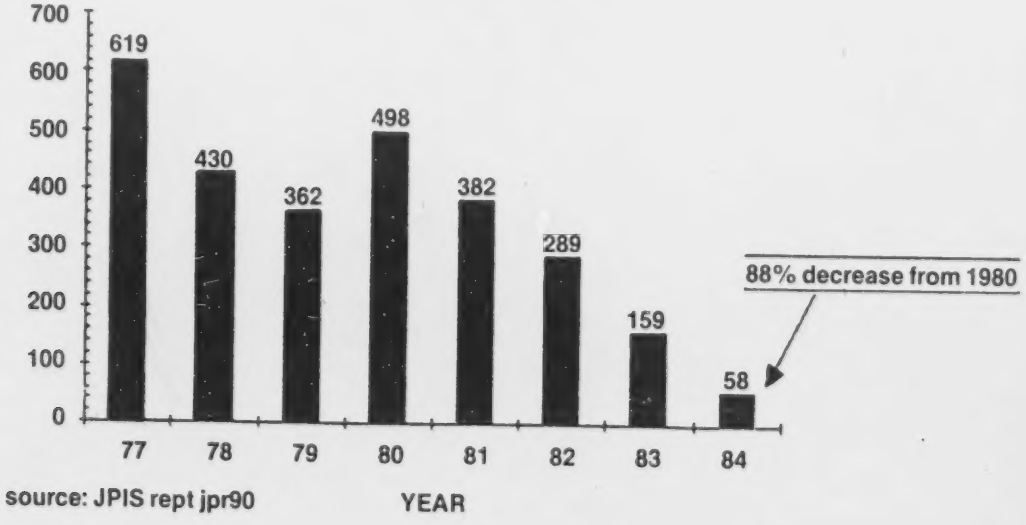
The next graph is illustrative of the general trends experienced from 1977 through 1984. The graph is of the number of youth detained for any reason. As can be seen in 1984, only 333 youth were detained in jail compared with 1,402 four years earlier. The declines are dramatic and not solely due to the decline in the numbers of youth at risk.

ALL DETENTIONS 1977 TO 1984



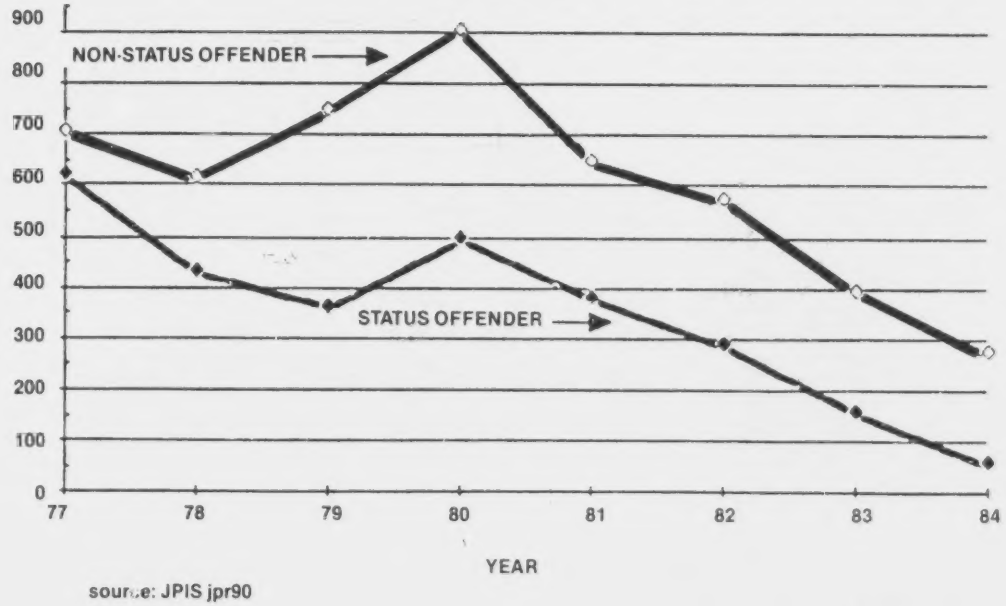
The following graph breaks down the material of the previous graph to show that the detention of non-criminal, status offenders in adult jails has almost been **eradicated**. From the 498 status offenders locked up in 1980, we have seen an **88%** reduction to 58 in 1984.

STATUS OFFENDER DETENTIONS 1977 TO 1984



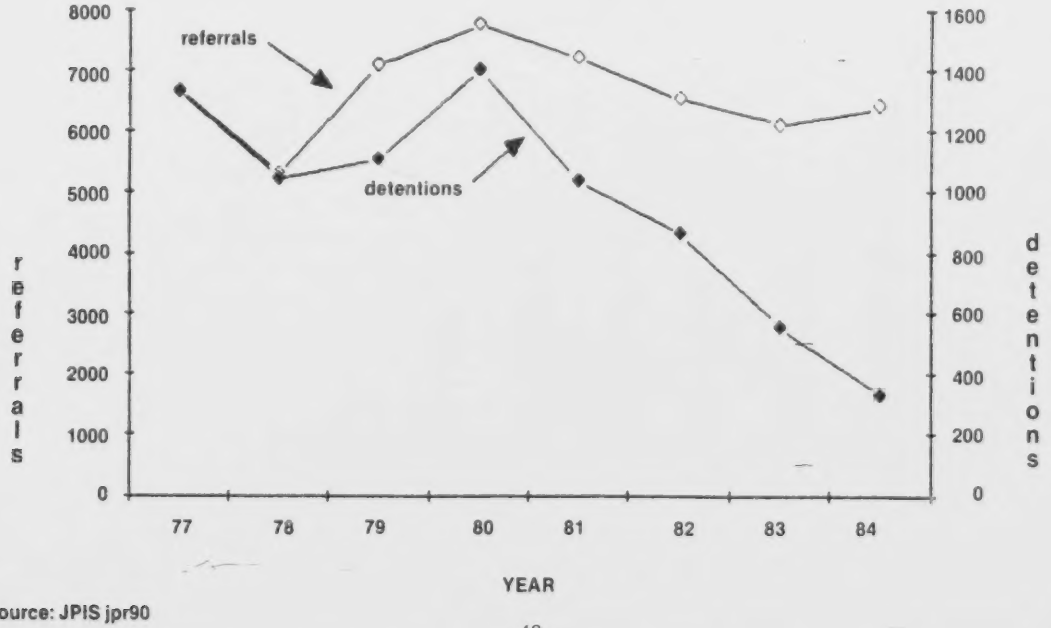
The next graph compares the reduction of detentions for status offenders and non-status offenders detained for a criminal offense. Both have declined precipitously to new all time lows.

DETENTIONS BY TYPE



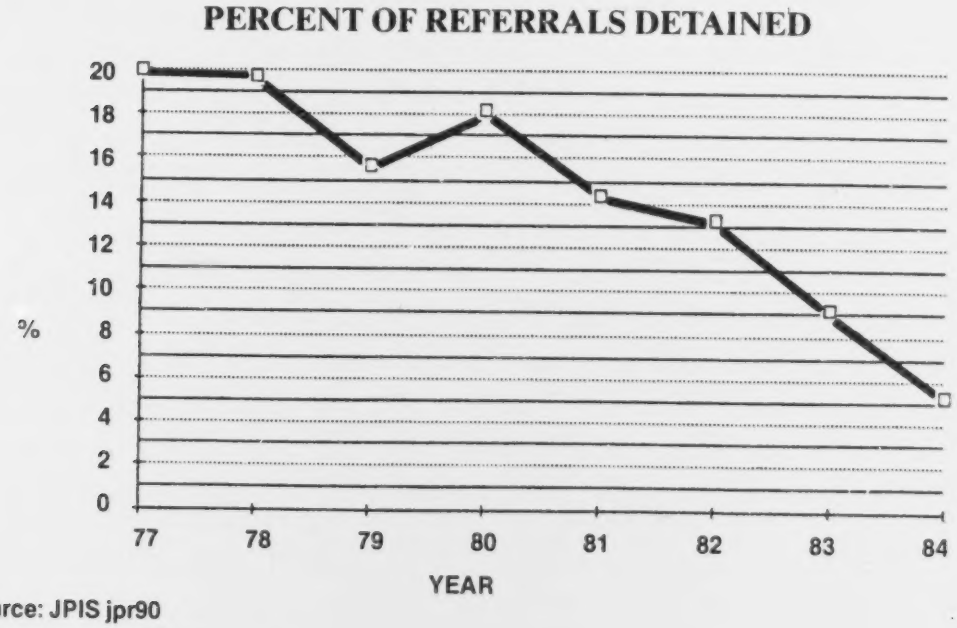
source: JPIS jpr90

The reduction in detention, however, is not solely due to reduced youth court activity. The graph below compares the number of all detentions to the number of referrals to Youth Court for several years. The graph is clear in its indication that referrals have remained much more constant than detentions.



source: JPIS jpr90

The following graph illustrates that from 1980 the percentage of referrals detained has continued to drop. In 1984 about 5 to 6 percent of the referrals were detained while in 1980 closer to 18 percent were detained in jail.



source: JPIS jpr90

Conclusion:

While the reduction of detention of youth in adult jails and lockups has been successful, juvenile criminal activity remains an issue of importance to Montana. Referrals to the Youth Court tend to hold constant. How juvenile offenders are handled is changing. The resources used in juvenile justice are also changing.

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